

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

March 2023



Chief's Monthly Summary

I am running a bit behind getting the March report out to you. I have resigned myself to the fact that any hope of work slowing down is a fleeting dream as I lead this department and two state associations this year. Leading a professional police organization is more complex today than at any time during my thirty-year career. The good news is that we have a cadre of highly capable leaders within this organization who continue to keep us moving forward.

One of the first steps when taking a new position is to conduct a SWOT (*strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats*) analysis. We did this shortly after I arrived and one of the most significant threats was the impending retirement of my entire executive staff. After recognizing this major threat, we began the process of developing our junior leaders. Well, the moment of significant threat is upon us. In less than four months the first of the three Captains transitions into retirement. Once that gate is opened, the others follow shortly thereafter.

This is a stressful, but exciting time for the department. We are soon to lose over 100 years of collective law enforcement experience between the three of the captains. But we will be promoting younger leaders to step in behind them. This marks a great opportunity for personal and professional growth for our junior leaders. They have worked hard, and we are investing a great deal in their education. We are sending our leaders to progressive leadership training. The unfortunate reality is that there was no investment in leaders in the past, a detriment to this agency.

Over the next several weeks, I will be working with a leadership consultant to write promotional processes for Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant. One promotion to Captain causes a ripple effect throughout the department and we have three on the horizon. For every Lieutenant promoted to Captain, we must promote a Sergeant to Lieutenant, an Officer to Sergeant, and hire a new Police Officer to backfill the movement within the organization. We are committed to promoting from within our own ranks rather than looking outside the organization for leaders, and we will do this three times.

It will be challenging as we assess our personnel and select those who we will entrust for the future leadership of our department and its people. The impending retirements of our executives thankfully do not happen all at once. We have some time to observe other leaders and continue to invest in their development. While our emerging leaders will have much to learn, they are eager and committed to making this agency better.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273										3,267
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

Traffic Safety

Total Traffic Stops:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459										475
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

Total Citations Issued:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293										317
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

DWI Arrests:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7										7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114										112
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

Top five crash locations:

#1	Chimney Rock Rd / Howard Gap Rd
#2	Asheville Hwy / Chelsea St
#3	Asheville Hwy / Haywood Rd
#4	Four Seasons Blvd / Orrs Camp Rd
#5	Chimney Rock Rd / I-26

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests

Criminal Arrests:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93										84
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

Incident Reports:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185										142
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

Drug Offenses:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19										24
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

Larcenies:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8										27
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

Assaults:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7										11
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

Employee Actions

- In partnership with Safelight, Sergeants Hoyle, Lockhart, and Capps trained all sworn officers on Lethality Assessment Protocols (LAP). LAP is an evidence-based program that research shows is the best predictor of homicide for interpersonal violence victims. Officers ask a series of questions during their domestic violence investigation and connect victims with Safelight and other resources to avoid further assaultive behavior by the offender.
- Chief Myhand made a conditional offer of employment as a Police Officer. The prospective Officer is bilingual and experienced.
- Lisa Morrison was hired as a part time evidence clerk after retiring from a career as a prosecutor for the Henderson County District Attorney’s Office.

Community Tip

- *Traffic safety* – With the temperatures getting warmer and the sun shining brighter, we typically see an increase in traffic crashes. June through September are our busiest months for motor vehicle crashes. Therefore, we are asking everyone to exercise caution when driving. Here are some tips for safe driving.
 - Understand that more people are on the roads when the weather is nice. With more vehicles comes the increased likelihood that a crash can happen.
 - Exercise patience when dealing with other motorists and give yourself more time to get to your destination. Everyone has somewhere to go, and no one wants to be late. Do not let being late negatively impact your driving.

- Watch for bicycles and motorcycles. When the weather is nice, our two-wheeled cyclists are out more. Please look twice before entering the roadway or changing lanes.
- Motorcyclists and bicyclists are almost always seriously injured or killed when involved in a crash with a motor vehicle. They simply do not have the same crash protection as vehicle drivers.
- Enjoy the sun, but do not get lost in it. We enjoy over 270 days of sun in our area. The sun, depending on the angle, can affect your vision of the road and vehicles ahead of you. Slow down if the sun is directly in your eyes.
- Wear sunglasses. Quality sunglasses can help tremendously when driving. They can also hinder driving if worn during periods of limited visibility. Question your choice of wearing sunglasses when it's cloudy, the hour surrounding dawn and/or dusk, or when it is raining.

Complaints and Findings

- February – A complaint alleging an Officer was speeding was sustained.
- February – A complaint that an Officer was harassing a student at a local school was unfounded.
- February – A complaint that an Officer was rude was unfounded.
- March – A complaint alleging Officer misconduct was received and assigned an investigator. The investigation is pending the findings of the investigator.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a combative person that had threatened staff of a local business and assaulted an officer. There were no injuries to the person arrested or officers. Investigation determined the use of force by officers was reasonable and justified.
- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a person that was resisting arrest by NC State Highway Patrol. There were no injuries to the person arrested or officers. Investigation determined that the use of force was reasonable and justified.

Operations/Notable Events

- A truck plowed into a business injuring several patrons. The investigation revealed that the driver stepped on the gas pedal rather than the brake pedal when pulling into a parking space directly in front of the business. There was no indication of impairment, and the driver was charged with failing to reduce speed.

- Two separate sexual assaults involving minors are being investigated. Outcomes and charges are pending.
- Officers located a deceased male in a homeless camp adjacent to 1st Ave E. The investigation is continuing pending toxicology results from the autopsy. The initial determination is that the victim died of apparent natural causes.
- HPD assisted HFD with a fire at a homeless camp under a bridge on MLK Blvd. No injuries were reported. Substantial damage was done to utilities including AT&T fiber optic cable. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to four overdoses this month all suspected to involve fentanyl.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 75% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$924,046 or 70% of our budget.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Detective Laite conducted a vulnerability assessment with the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville. This was conducted as part of their requirements for a FEMA grant.
- Detective LaRowe conducted an educational training session on fraud awareness at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville.
- Chief Myhand spoke to a group of residents at Lake Point Landing. He provided crime and community information to those in attendance.
- Chief Myhand toured the Veterans Healing Farm in Laurel Park on 3/30/2023. This 10-acre farm helps veterans, and first responders deal with the traumas experienced as a result of service.
- Chief Myhand spoke to local high school students about the dangers of substance abuse at the annual "We are Hope" week in front of the Historic County Courthouse on 3/3/2023.

Awards and Recognitions

- None this month

Grants Management

- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
 - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
 - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
 - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

Recruiting/Retention

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - Applications - 12 Total
 - (5) Initial Stage of Process
 - (5) Second Stage (Active in Process)
 - Background – (2) in Background